

New-York Tribune.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1911.

This newspaper is owned and published by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation; office and principal place of business, Tribune Building, No. 154 Nassau street, New York; Oden Mills, president; Oden M. Reid, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Senor Canalejas consented to retain his post as Premier, permission being granted to him to reconstruct his Cabinet. He is expected to block further attempts to reopen the Ferrer case. Delegates who have assembled at Moulon to investigate the pneumonic plague situation, express the opinion that a serum will be found which will eradicate the disease; famine conditions are said to be worse than those of 1904. Mexican authorities arrested Salvador Madero, brother of Francisco Madero, leader of the Mexican revolutionists, at Nuevo Laredo; he was placed in jail incommunicado. Nine hundred meetings were held in England in the first half of the month, and Lord Coleridge presided at a great peace demonstration, at which Augustine Birrell spoke. Chinese at Tsi-Han-Fu attacked and badly injured the Rev. John Murray, an American missionary.

DOMESTIC.—The extra session of Congress, it was said in Washington, would be shorter than anticipated; Republican Senators will oppose the extension of the tariff until the regular session. War Department officials, says a Washington dispatch, regard the movement of troops to Texas as an inspiring object lesson in showing the preparedness of the army. The United States Supreme Court, it is expected, will hand down decisions in several important cases to-day. The fire broke out at about 10 o'clock in the State Capitol at Albany, and was extinguished in about an hour.

CITY.—The mass meeting in the Metropolitan Opera House, after listening to speeches by Bishop Greer, Professor Seligman, Governor Dix, and others, and a letter from Governor Dix on the Washington Place disaster, adopted resolutions setting forth the prevention of future disasters, and the appointment of a committee to prosecute the work. Seth Low wrote a letter to Borough President McAneny suggesting that insurance companies refuse to insure buildings where the fire laws were not obeyed. Petitioners for fire protection, according to records of the Bureau of Buildings, have in some instances, proposed paying for the safety of employees. Governor Dix asked the state Banking Department to explain why the Carnegie Trust Company was allowed to continue so long lending money on poor collateral. The Rev. Dr. Jewett, from Birmingham, England, preached his first sermon as pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain or snow. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 38 degrees; lowest, 24.

WOOL AND REVENUE.

Representative Oscar W. Underwood, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, talks rather jauntily about revising the wool schedule of the Payne tariff law. He seems to think that a revision measure can be prepared and rushed through the lower branch of Congress in a couple of weeks. He was thus quoted the other day: "While I have no authority to say that the wool growers will not be given a hearing, it is my opinion that they might just as well make an assault upon Gibraltar as upon the House." This may properly be interpreted to mean that Mr. Underwood expects to remove the duty on wool and to reduce very materially the duties on imported woolen goods. He has in that plan the support of Democratic precedent, for the Simon-Pure Democratic downward revisionists of the 53d Congress made wool free in the Wilson-Gorman bill.

Mr. Underwood will, however, encounter some trouble when he attempts to apply the present Democratic theory of a tariff for revenue only by dispensing with all revenues from imported wools. There are two tariff-for-revenue-only schools in the Democratic party. The one, represented by Henry Watterson, holds that a model revenue tariff could be written on a single sheet of note paper. It would impose ad valorem duties on half a dozen importations of wide consumption, and let all other imports come in free. The other school, represented by Senator Joseph W. Bailey and the quasi-protectionists, holds that a revenue duty of some sort should be levied on every article imported and that no discrimination should be made between raw materials and manufactures.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find "The Houston Post" protesting against Mr. Underwood's apparent purpose to remove the duty from wool. It says:

Why take the duty off wool? If wool is to be selected as one of the products for the free list, then why not sugar, rice, tobacco, hemp? Why not woolen goods, machinery, iron and steel, and other revenue-producing imports?

As we view it—and our point of view is that a tariff is justified only for purposes of revenue—every article that comes through the Custom House ought to bear a revenue tax so long as we maintain a custom system.

If we follow the plan of exempting some imports from duty and taxing others then it will be impossible to avoid discrimination against certain classes of producers, when all should share alike.

"The Post" says that the country's experience with free wool under the Wilson-Gorman act should have taught the Democratic party the folly of putting certain raw materials arbitrarily on the free list and then trying to justify that policy as one purely for revenue.

Free raw materials are logical when under a tariff system which has for its aim not so much revenue as the building up of domestic manufacturing industries. They are not logical under a scheme which pretends to ignore the

effect of duties on industry or even on domestic prices. As a guide in tariff making the for-revenue-only theory is about as useful as a follow-up candle on a stormy night. Mr. Underwood may find himself losing his bearings before he gets his wool schedule revision through.

THE GAYNOR CHARTER.

Mayor Gaynor's proposed charter is likely to encounter opposition similar to that which prevented the adoption of the Ives charter. The concentration of authority which it attempts to run counter to a variety of interests. The Controllership, for example, according to a well established political rule, goes to Brooklyn, and Brooklyn, therefore, will not be ready to see the Controllership largely stripped of its influence and most of its powers transferred to an appointee of the Mayor. Concentration of authority over buildings, now held by the Borough Presidents, in the hands of a single city department is a desirable reform, but the feeling for autonomy which saved the Borough Presidents when threatened by Mr. Ives is likely to come to their defence again. Tammany will not care to see the Borough President of Manhattan deprived of any patronage. And there is any subject on which Tammany is more sensitive than that of buildings? The history of building code legislation tells the story. Nor will opposition be solely political. After the recent showing of how bad a Chamberlain the city may have, many persons would dislike to see additional powers conferred upon that office. Moreover, if the city is to have a financial officer, why not concentrate financial authority in his hands instead of further dispersing it? The opposition which Mayor Gaynor's proposal regarding the Board of Education will have to meet from many who are sincerely interested in the schools has already become active. His plan is fraught with great possibilities of mischief. Consider for a moment the history of municipal government in New York. Have paid commissioners at the head of city departments been such an unqualified success that the public should feel impelled to put education in the hands of a paid commission?

The Mayor's best suggestion is that for concentrating authority over conditions relating to safety from fire in the Fire Department and giving that department powers similar to those possessed by the Health Department, but it is probable that, excellent as the suggested plan is, it may be improved when investigations regarding the recent disaster have been completed and its lesson is fully comprehended.

EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCES.

Announcement is made from Cambridge, Mass., of an interesting experiment in co-operation between Harvard University and four smaller colleges of the Central West. In imitation of the exchanges of professors between American and German universities, Harvard will exchange professors or instructors with Beloit, Grinnell, Knox and Colorado colleges. Each year one professor from Cambridge will visit the four Western institutions in turn, giving lectures and familiarizing himself with their methods of instruction. Harvard will receive professors or instructors from each of its Western associates, and they will have an opportunity to become practically acquainted with the classroom methods in use at the older institution.

The proposition for an exchange was made by the Western colleges and was gladly accepted by Harvard. As President Lowell said in a recent address in this city, it is the aim of the authorities at Harvard to do an educational work of a broadly national character and to remove the impression that Harvard's usefulness is largely limited to Massachusetts and New England. The establishment of a system of exchanges with the colleges and universities of the West opens the way to an extension of Harvard's influence, the popularization of its advanced methods of college work which may be of great benefit to the whole country.

The success of the experiment—and its success can hardly be doubted—will probably encourage further alliances of the same sort between leading Eastern universities and the smaller institutions of other sections. The smaller colleges in many states are now being overshadowed more and more by the great state universities. They could recover much ground by availing themselves of the benefits of an association with Eastern institutions like Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Princeton, and these older foundations would find their power for good multiplied and extended to the four quarters of the Republic. Much may come of the educational venture about to be launched.

SEEKING MORE EFFICIENT BUILDING INSPECTION.

The Washington Place fire in this city, following a similar disaster in Jersey street, Newark, has roused the New Jersey authorities to take a practical step toward remedying at least one of the evils which in that state have made such occurrences possible. There is in New Jersey a state system of factory inspection which is supposed to serve as a safeguard against unduly dangerous conditions, and particularly against peril from fire. The system has, however, often been a reproach to the state, for the reason that the inspectors have in some cases been chosen on grounds of political and personal favoritism, and with little or no regard for their capacity for the work required of them. Obviously a lawyer or doctor or teacher who knows nothing about buildings can scarcely be an efficient inspector of a factory, just from looking at it as he passes along the street on his way to his office.

With a view to increased efficiency of inspection the Governor and Commissioner of Labor last week procured the introduction of a bill at Trenton providing for the appointment of six more inspectors and—what was most significant and important—for placing the whole system under the Civil Service law. Hitherto the inspectors, as direct appointees of the Governor, have been in the unclassified service. Now it is proposed to put them in the competitive class. If this bill is enacted the six new inspectors will be selected after competitive examination, and the successors to the thirteen present incumbents will, upon the expiration of the latter's terms, be similarly chosen. This course was recommended in the last report of the Commissioner of Labor, but it required the stimulus of another tragic object lesson to produce legislative action.

There can be no question of the desirability of this reform. If any members of the public service should be chosen solely on the ground of fitness

and competency to perform the duties required of them they are those upon whose capacity and fidelity the lives of thousands of persons directly depend for security from disaster. A staff of inspectors who are ascertained to be conversant with building construction, with precautions against fires and with sanitary requirements, and who will devote their time and attention to the service instead of making it a mere incidental avocation, should surely produce better results than those which are marked with grim memorials in High street. It is voluntarily proposing to divest himself of this unrestricted patronage in favor of an extension of the merit system Governor Wilson shows the sincerity of his devotion to the public service.

MAYOR AND MAGISTRATE.

The issue is joined between Mayor Gaynor and Magistrate Corrigan, through the former's letter and the latter's speech to the City Club. Both men have contented themselves for the most part with making assertions, neither having produced much that might be called proof. Mayor Gaynor says that "the streets were never so free of wayward women." Magistrate Corrigan asserts that there are more such women on the streets now than there ever were before, and produces the letter of a social worker interested in this subject to back him up. "Outward order and decency never were better," says the Mayor. Magistrate Corrigan says that an unusual number of thugs, criminals and hand-punchers are busy here, and he is supported by a witness familiar with beggary in this city through his work in protecting organized charity from impostors.

"There were never so few gambling places in the city within my time," says the Mayor. The magistrate offers to tell where there are twenty of them in a few short blocks. "There never were so few barrooms doing business on Sunday," the Mayor declares, and he adds that a plain view of the bars is afforded and "every passerby may see that there is not 'one inside and that the barroom is not 'in use'." Magistrate Corrigan says he has been around and has seen bartenders everywhere drawing beer on Sundays.

In making the assertion he does about the success of his policy with regard to saloons the Mayor must be deceived by his advisers. His famous innocence as to the whereabouts of Tammany Hall must extend to the whereabouts of the saloons in Manhattan and the Bronx. It is absurd to say that the passerby may see for himself that no one is in the saloons on Sunday. This contradicts ordinary experience. As to the other kinds of lawlessness, it is most difficult to institute comparisons between conditions to-day and those existing formerly, but it is safe to say that few will be found to agree with the Mayor that there is less vice and crime in the city than ever before, and the general opinion will incline to the view of the magistrate that the police are less efficient now than they usually are in the protection of citizens. The magistrate appeals with confidence to the "complaint book," which always kept secret by the police, asserting that this will show that the "wave of crime" exists and that the police are failing to apprehend the criminals. The falling to apprehend the criminals, grand jury should certainly examine that book. If it is honestly kept it will tell whether or not the Gaynor system has demoralized the police.

TWO FATHERS AND TWO SONS.

Last week's news told of the capture by the Mexican government of a number of American filibusters who had been fighting with the Mexican rebels and engaging in their marauding practices. The father of one of them, without the least denial of the criminality of his son's conduct, declared that he would at once appeal to the State Department to secure for his son his "full rights," and would begin a fight for his release. The father of another, who was no more culpable than the former, is reported as saying that he would not meddle with the case, but would let his son suffer the penalty of his conduct. "If he had been fighting for his own country it would be different, but he had no business 'fighting in Mexico'."

Now, the average father undoubtedly would be inclined to do as the former and not as the latter did. Paternal affection is not quenched by respect for the neutrality laws, nor, indeed, by the misdeeds of a lawless son. The example of Lucius Junius Brutus is academically followed. Nevertheless, the views of impartial observers and of the government, unaffected by family ties, must incline toward the latter. These men, and the many others who went with them, had no business fighting in Mexico. If they killed any Mexicans, they were morally if not legally guilty of murder. They are entitled to their "rights," as are all criminals at the bar. But that the simple fact of their American citizenship entitles them to summary release, or to any special privileges, cannot be maintained. They have broken the law of the country whose hospitality they have violated, and they must bear the penalty.

That doctrine may seem harsh to the individual, but it is kind to the race and to the nation. The inexorable practice of it will discourage that individual meddling in international affairs which is one of the chief causes of irritation and animosity between nations. Moreover, it is nothing but a logical application of the principle which we insist upon in other cases. If an immigrant on landing here commits theft or arson or murder, we do not excuse him because he is an alien, nor do we surrender him to the authorities of his own country. He has come hither voluntarily and broken our laws, and to our laws he must answer; and all the "rights" upon the enjoyment of which his own government can insist are comprised in having just such a trial as one of our own citizens would have in like circumstances. The realization of this ought to be a sufficient warning to all American citizens to refrain from taking part in the brawls of other lands.

HYGIENIC PERPLEXITIES.

No sooner has the layman come to pin his faith to certain simple rules of hygiene than some expert rises to unsettle his feeling of security and comfort. Cleanliness, fresh air, exercise—of these, at least, we felt sure as the fundamentals of healthful living, but now an English therapist, Sir Almroth Wright, M. D., flatly announces his disbelief in the efficacy of all three as preservers and promoters of health. They are so closely connected in the general mind as almost equal parts of one system that it seems quite natural they should share the skepticism of their professional critic.